

## **Young Local Harmonica Players Shine in Asia Pacific Festival**

Following the glorious triumph of the King's Harmonica Quintet in the World Harmonica Festival 1997 where the Quintet was awarded the world champion, the younger generation of local talented harmonica players had once again demonstrated the high standard of harmonica playing in Hong Kong to the international harmonica community. 29 students from King's College and Hotung Secondary School returned from the 3rd Asia Pacific Harmonica Festival in Seoul, South Korea, which ran from 1 to 4 August 2000, grabbing 8 medals, including 2 champions, in 5 categories of competition ranging from solo to orchestra.

Subsequent to the 1995 World Harmonica Festival held in Yokohama of Japan (being the first time of such in Asia), Asia Pacific Harmonica Festivals were held in Taipei of Taiwan, Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia and Seoul of South Korea in 1996, 1998 and 2000 respectively. Undoubtedly, such a Festival is the single most important event in the Region of Asia Pacific. Participants from Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore etc gathered together to demonstrate their high standard of harmonica playing. The Festival has enjoyed continuous growth in popularity as reflected in the number of participants. The Korean Festival has attracted 500 people to fly in to join the Festival, up from 200 in the first Festival in 1996. The participation from countries of Asia Pacific is expected to extend to the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and India etc in the coming Festivals. As a matter of fact, the Asia Pacific Festival is considered to be of an even larger scale than the World Festivals that were mainly held outside of Asia Pacific.

It is encouraging to note the increasingly successful participation of Hong Kong harmonica players in this Asia Pacific Festival. In terms of number of participants in competition, there were more than 50 in 2000, up from some 10 in 1996. The even more promising trend is demonstrated by the increasing number of awards obtained by a younger age of winners. The following is a summary :-

### **Taipei, Taiwan Festival in 1996**

Awards of Excellence.

### **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Festival in 1998**

There were a total of 3 AWARDS as follows :-

1. FIRST in DUO section.
2. SECOND in DUO section.
3. SECOND in SMALL BAND section.

## Seoul, South Korea Festival in 2000

There were altogether 8 AWARDS as follows :-

1. **FIRST** in Youth Chromatic Solo section  
(\* ) HUI King-lam playing Pete Pedersen' s " Pictures of a Woman" .
2. **THIRD** in Youth Chromatic Solo section  
(\* ) SO Lok-hang playing C Romani' s " Cuban Masquerade" .
3. **CO-SECOND** in Adult Chromatic Solo section  
SUM Siu-cheong playing Paul Lewis' " Serenade and Dance" .
4. **FIRST** in Youth Duo section  
(\* ) LAM Ho-wai & SO Lok-hang playing L Jansa' s " Allegro from Duo No.1" .
5. **SECOND** in Youth Duo section  
(\* ) HUI King-lam & Steven YU playing L Jansa' s " Allegro Moderato" .
6. **SECOND** in 7 to 14 Persons Small Band section  
(\* ) King' s College Harmonica Band playing Vaughan William' s " March - Seventeen Come Sunday" from English Folk Song Suite.
7. **THIRD** in 7 to 14 Persons Small Band section  
(@) Hotung Secondary School Harmonica Band Team B playing L Arditi' s " Il Bacio" .
8. **SPECIAL PRIZE** in 15+ Persons Big Band section  
(\*)(@) KC & HSS Joint Harmonica Band playing MAO' s " Dance of the Yao Tribe" (#).

(\* ) Students from King' s College (" KC" ).

(@) Students from Hotung Secondary School (" HSS" ).

(#) KC & HSS Joint Harmonica Band obtained the highest marks and was awarded " SPECIAL PRIZE" .

Judging from the number of participants, the age of the participants as well as the prizes obtained in the series of Festivals, it indicated a promising future for the development of Harmonica Activities in Hong Kong.

For more details, please go to the website of King' s Harmonica Quintet

<http://home.netvigator.com/~cblau/khq>.